wondering what had become of me — so it by accident we saw the Lord Mayor's show! [illegible] [illegible] & some Horse-guards, the mounted police, quantities of beautiful silk banners & flags, then amid bands of music, the heads of the different guilds in carriages, some with postillions on the horses, others with rosettes & very small plates on the breasts of footmen & coachman — One or two of them quite covered with gold lace — Then came the Sheriffs with rather more gorgeous carriages & liveries, only as it rained, unfortunately the cocked hats were covered with oil silk & the gay coats & pink stockings with mackintoshes!! The ex-lord mayor came in a yellow carriage, then the Lady mayoress in a glass Coach (i.e. the upper panels all glass) & My Lord Mayor in his glass & gold coach, his huge gilt mace looking like a little child, out of the window — That was the last of the procession — Presently the carriage came, & after most affectionate good-byes from Mr. Dowie, we departed. It was damp & growing dusk, but we must call on Miss Sullivan, so we took our way through to Fulham missed the road, "it was so deceivin' after dark," the Coachman said, & after all found Miss Sullivan out — got back quite late to Kew, & found Mr. Amory waiting dinner for us — He did not go to Liverpool with mother, but has been staying with us —

Saturday morn'g came Charles' letter, Saturday ev'g came yours, with all your news —

Tuesday I rearranged trunks & packed preparatory to moving — Willie Hooker came in to bid good-bye, poor boy, he sailed for New Zealand Wednesday — In the ev'g appeared Mr. & Mrs. Hale our fellow-passengers — They have been in or here almost all the time — Cross to Paris tomorrow —

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Kew, Nov. 12th '68 —

My dear Sue,

What did I do all day Saturday [illegible] as I cannot remember exactly that I seemed very busy — Oh, yes! It was sharply cold & frozen in the morning, but before Dr. Gray got out began to rain — So I made up my mind for what would have been at home a wet Sunday & set busily about, to mend my dressing-case, & stereo-box, &c, &c. And had the table littered with things, — scarcely noticed it had cleared to bright sun-shine, when Mrs. Thompson & her sister were announced. They questioned on the difference of English & American climate, & I told them for one thing we should have been sure of a rainy day at home! Just at dusk mother & Mr. Amory appeared, only to stay about ½ an hour; crossed on Friday with very good weather, reaching London at night. We went to dine at the Hooker's, tea-dinner at 6½, Mr. & Mrs. Woolner were there. He is a sculptor & also a poet, perhaps you have read reviews of some of his poems — I remember having very much taken with a notice of "My Beautiful Lady," some time ago—But only another proof of the danger of ever meeting any favorite author! He is a short, rather thick, little man, with a handsome head & full beard—jolly, conceited & opinionated, full of funny stories which he tells capitally & with a deal of dramatic force. Dr. Gray says is a small edition of James T. Fields. As for the delicate sentiment, the refined, spiritual beauty of the poem, we cannot put poet & poem together! His wife is a sister of Mrs. Holman Hunt, the painter, (is she living?) & is one of those faces nearly being a classic beauty, & turns out second rate—They were very kind, pleasant & agreeable—The children had some fire-works in the little garden behind the house, thrown off after dinner, & at which we quietly looked from the drawing-room in a warm room—Enjoying the fun of the failures as well as the successes—

Sunday Dr. Gray went to town to join mother's party for church—I was afraid to venture as I was a little over done on Thursday & had taken some cold—One's colds don't amount to anything, only a perfect state of snuffles—It is so chilly! one has nothing but no reserved warmth; as soon as I go to my cold chamber, even to fetch anything, I am in a shiver!—But there was a white powdering of snow on Sunday morn. & it was said to be 2 [illegible] in the [illegible]!—I went to Kew church & sat in Dr. Hooker's pew, & admired the beautiful tablet to Sir Wm., made by Woolner, a bas relief, & most lovely graceful ferns encircling the medallion. Going home with Mrs. Hooker, there were thick pieces of ice in the front yard, which she said the boys had got on the roof—

Monday we went to town to make some calls—took a fly, 'genteel', & called first at Mrs. [illegible], then on Lady Rogers, then on Mr. & Mrs. Darwin, unfortunately not seeing them, & then to the Lyells' to lunch—They gave us a very kind welcome, & there was a very pleasant visitor there, Mrs. Col. Lyell. It was lovely sunshine when we left Kew, & I was utterly surprised to find it raining as we came out after lunch—We wanted to do one or two errands, to buy a lady's travelling bag, to go to Dowie's in the Strand, Charing-Cross, about some boots—But we found ourselves in all the crowd of Lord Mayor's day! Difficult making our way, & raining quite fast—So Dr. Gray darted off one way on an errand to meet me at Dowie's, & I drove there, finding the street full of mounted police & crowds of people—A police-man accosted the driver, & I dashed in to the shop & hurried to try on the boots—The clerk said the procession would soon be along, & I asked him, fearing trouble, to go & direct the carriage to drive off & come back when it was passed—But it was already gone, & there I was pinned. But they were all civil, took quite an interest in my seeing as an American the show, & presented Dr. Gray a stand, ever!

It is very pleasant all gathering together at dinner! We quite fill up our parlour – And then one has been here & the other there, & one bought this the other that! And there are some things cheap – Olivia got a very nice porte-monnaie of Turkey leather for 1s.! And Dr. Gray a very nice kid purse, neatly mounted, the same price – George could show blank books almost as large as this sheet paper, nicely bound in morocco, calf covers, ruled & well finished for 10 pence. – Paper & envelopes, pencils, &c. are cheap – George has a neat, convenient, little map of London 6d.! The family run to maps, I believe we muster 6 if not 7 of London & suburbs! –

Tomorrow we propose, some of us, going to Kensington Museum – Dr. Gray goes in the Ev. to a party at the Lyells – I do not venture a late Ev. ride – Monday I suppose, I shall be busy packing, & Tuesday we expect to cross to Paris – I suppose Charles will land Tuesday or Wednesday, & be through with his affairs in London, so as to join us on Monday or Tuesday the week after – Then we shall probably start before him, & get the two days at Monaco, while he stops in Paris & comes later with the rest of the party – except Olivia who goes with us to Nice – We see the Ger. steamer has arrived, so I suppose the Schuylers are in Paris –

Many thanks to all the good folks for your letters, & heaps of love to you all!

Ever affectionately, Jane L. Gray –

Nov. 13th. Wednesday morning came Mrs. Sullivan to call, hearty & jolly as ever, off herself for Rome the 9th. Dec., may go to Egypt, & hopes if she does she may meet us – "It would be so pleasant if we could go to Syria together!" – I went, after lunch, to look at the rooms for Mother – Funny little attics up two flights, but looking very neat, & a quaint little sitting room at the foot of the stairs by the front door, about two doors or more away from us – Mr. Amory had a bed at the "Coach & horses," the only bed, so we decided, as the beds were not large at Mrs. Sears', to take George into Dr. Gray's dressing-room – A note came from G. in the morning, saying the steamer sailed so late in the day they could not leave Liverpool until Wednesday morning, would stop on the way to see Lichfield Cathedral, & so not dine with us but arrive at 8½ – Dr. Gray went up to London after dinner, to a meeting of the Microscopical Society, & Mrs. Amory & I waited, had the tea-kettle boiling, & the table spread for a high tea, and about ¼ to 9 they appeared. – It was very pleasant being together again, & Dr. Gray was back from London before they were gone to their own rooms –

Thursday we scattered. Mr. Amory wandered on foot around the country generally, mother & I were to go to Highbury to see Mrs. Dabney, George & Olivia to London by North London train, so mother & I went part way with them, getting out too soon in this stupid way they manage the trains, but fortunately finding it out before the train started –

Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson live in a very pleasant house, one of the suburban villas so common about London –

a nice brick house, double-house we should say, only the wing where is the dining-room is but one story high — a little yard with pretty shrubbery in front, but reaching behind into what we should call in Cambridge, a large garden — long & narrow, prettily & effectively laid out as these English gardens are, carefully cultivated & beautiful turf — a little conservatory adjoining the house, a green house & forcinghouses farther off — The library where we were shown was a beautiful room, surrounded with books & the air of comfort & luxury the English know so well how to give — Mrs. Dabney gave us a cordial welcome. Mrs. Atkinson is much better than when Mrs. Dabney came — looks like a hearty English-woman, & one would never suspect from voice, speech or manner she was American born & bred; the sisters make an odd contrast, for Mrs. Atkinson can only move on crutches or in a wheeled chair, but dresses handsomely & looks very stout. Mrs. Dabney with her quick activity, & indifference to appearance, & grey hair — We lunched with them, had a turn round the garden, & before we left Mr. D. came in. Really, the most remarkable man of his age I ever saw! Certainly about 88 or 90, & over 80! —

Mother & I were back in good time, the others missed each the earlier train & met in the R. R. Station at Kew! —

Today mother & Olivia were off together, George also to London independently, & Dr. Gray to the City to draw money, get letter of credit &c. preparing for our move —

This morning came Lizzie's letter just to amuse our breakfast with her rat-catching, or *not* rat-catching —

Then an hour later came Charles' — And after dinner came yours, enclosing Clara's & Alice's & Charlie's & Anna's, with the stamps — Tell Anna not to be troubled, I am sure I am not cheated, & hope they are not — I hope that the letter that first went was not the one in which I sent some stamps, else they must have been lost! But such a budget of letters for one day seems almost too nice! We have all enjoyed their various contents — All items of home news are so delightful! —

I have been to call on Mrs. Hooker today — Returning from there I met Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, our fellow-passengers, whom we were wondering not to hear from — It seems they have been all this time in Ireland & Wales! If they do the rest of their travelling so leisurely they will be a long time getting home again! — We went through the gardens a little, & then they came to our lodgings, & then I went to see them on their way to the station; & as I came back I went across to call on Mrs. Thompson, & say good-bye — They are such very pleasant people! Really our going seems near — And it seems quite an affair to break up our quarters here, we have been so comfortably settled down — And to go into trunks to live for so long! For now we do not expect to be back in England until the end of next summer — We have a very obliging landlady, & very comfortable quarters, if only they were warmed more in American fashion! I shall think furnaces a finer invention than